

In Flanders Fields

The Time was May 1915. In Flanders, the French and Belgian lands bordered by the North Sea... World War I raged for yearly a year. John McCrae, a Canadian medical officer, attended to the wounded soldiers during the Second Battle of Ypres. After losing a close friend, John McCrae wrote the touching poem, ***In Flanders Fields***, describing the images of war, love, loss, and renewal that he witnessed during this time.

--Linda Granfield

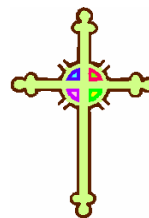
Reading of the poem *In Flanders Fields*
by John McCrae

Closing Prayer

Spirit of God,
move again over the waters
Of your creation,
Drawing life from the chaos.
Bring reconciliation to the nations,
Removing the bitterness,
Greed and hatred
That divide our hearts.
Inspire the minds of all leaders
With care for the needs of their people.



Let truth be standard
As we seek to bring about
A fair sharing of the goods of the earth.
Help us to know you,
The Father and Jesus,
Calling to mind Jesus' words:
"As often as you did it to one of these,
The least of my brothers and sisters,
You did it to me".



Help us also remember today
And throughout the year
To be at peace with ourselves
And accept others as God made them. Amen.

—B. Arbour

Final Blessing

Let all the people on one side of the room turn towards the other side of the room and raise their hands in blessing.

Leader: Deep peace of the running wave to you.

Deep peace of the flowing air to you.

Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.

Deep peace of the shining stars to you.

Deep peace of the Son of Peace to you.

All: Amen

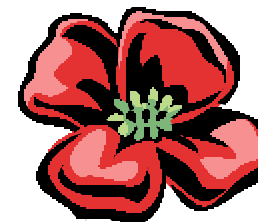
—Irish Blessing

ONE MINUTE OF SILENCE
O CANADA

Compiled by Les Miller and Melinda Rapallo
York Catholic School Board
Thank you to Janis Foley and Mary Ann Takas for sharing their liturgy.

Remembrance Day

Prayer Service



In Flanders Fields

**In Flanders Fields the poppies grow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below
We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders Fields.**

**Take up our quarrel with the foe;
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow**

In Flanders Fields.

-John McCrae



Introduction

On the 11th day of November, Canadians throughout the country take some time to honour those men and women who were killed in two World Wars, the Korean War and United Nations Peace Keeping Missions. On Remembrance Day, most people will wear a poppy. This flower is worn to remind us of the many people who were killed because of war. It is our way to make sure that the brave Canadians who were killed are not forgotten and to do our very best to prevent future deaths by war. Today, we take the time to pray for a future filled with peace, love and freedom.

Scripture Reading: John 14: 27-31

Let us listen to the words from the Holy Gospel of John.

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

You heard me say to you, "I am going away, and I am coming to you." If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.

I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no power over me; but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father.



The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer For Peace

Side 1: We cannot merely pray to You, Oh God, to end war; For we know that You have made the world in a way that we must find our own path to peace within ourselves and with our neighbour.

Side 2: We cannot merely pray to You, Oh God, to end starvation; for You have already given us the resources with which to feed the entire world if we would only use them wisely.

Side 1: We cannot merely pray to You, Oh God, to end despair, for You have already given us the power to clear away slums and give people hope, if we would only use our power justly.

Side 2: We cannot merely pray to You, Oh God, to end disease, for you have already given us great minds with which to search out cures and healing, if we would only use them constructively.

Side 1: Therefore, we pray to You, instead, Oh God, for strength, determination and willpower, to *do* instead of just to pray, to *become* instead of merely to wish.

—Jack Reimer

The Lord's Prayer

Leader: Let us together pray in the words that Jesus taught us.

Our Father...

All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever.



Sign of Peace

Leader: Jesus said to his apostles I leave you peace, my peace I give you. Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

